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O' Christmas Tree

On average, it takes 7 to 10 years to grow a Christmas tree. The useful product life of a Christmas tree is approximately one month, although many Christmas trees are removed from the home in 2-3 weeks. In addition, Christmas trees, which are usually grown on farms, are treated with large amounts of pesticides and fertilizers in order to provide families with the "perfect" tree for the holidays. At the end of the holiday season, the tree is disposed at the landfill or through a yard waste program.

Instead of a cut tree, you could purchase a live potted tree, which will cost about the same as the cut trees. But when the holiday is over, you can plant it outside and watch it grow throughout the years. Rather than a potted evergreen tree, many families get creative by making wreaths or dressing up rosemary and other plants instead.

Heaven Hill Distilleries Opens Evan Williams Bourbon Experience

KY EXCEL member Heaven Hill Distilleries opened its Evan Williams Bourbon Experience on Louisville's historic Whiskey Row and is the eighth stop on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail.

DWM Requests Applications for Crumb Rubber Grants

The Kentucky Division of Waste Management (DWM) is accepting grant proposals for projects that promote the use of recycled waste tires for athletic fields, playgrounds and other crumb rubber applications. Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. EST, on Jan. 31, 2014, at the Division of Waste Management's central office in Frankfort.

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What's Coming Up?

No events scheduled at this time.

EPA Proposes 2014 Renewable Fuel Standards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed for public comment the levels of renewable fuels to be blended into gasoline and diesel as required by Congress under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Developed with input from the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Agriculture, the proposal seeks public input on annual volume requirements for renewable fuels in all motor vehicle gasoline and diesel produced or imported by the United States in 2014.

EPA Awards \$1.65 Million in Research Fellowships to Undergraduates

The EPA awarded more than \$1.65 million in research fellowships to 33 students pursuing degrees in environmental science and related fields through its Greater Research Opportunities Fellowship program. Paul Henry Fleischmann, from Western Kentucky University, and Mark F. Vater, from Northern Kentucky University, are among the winners nationwide.

Vancouver Launches World's First Cigarette Butts Recycling Program

The Cigarette Waste Brigade pilot project began in Vancouver, Canada, as part of the city's efforts to become the greenest on the globe by 2020. The program's first step was to install 110 recycling receptacles in four downtown areas where haphazardly discarded butts are commonly found. These collected butts will then be recycled into usable building materials, such as planks and shipping pallets.

EPA Seeks Public Input on Newly Designed Graphic for Bug Repellent Labels

The EPA released a Federal Register Notice seeking public input on a new insect repellent graphic for skin-applied insect repellent product labels. The graphic, which may be applied voluntarily by manufacturers, will provide consumers with important health information including the estimated number of hours a product will repel potentially harmful insects, like mosquitoes and ticks, when used as directed.

EPA Releases Agency Plans for Adapting to a Changing Climate

The EPA released its draft Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plans for public review and comment. The Implementation Plans provide detailed information about the actions the EPA plans to take across the country to help communities adapt to a changing climate.